

1                   ABSTRACT

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3                 A method of binding a plurality of sheets into a bound sheet stack. The method  
4         includes providing a first sheet and a second sheet. At least one of the sheets has a  
5         protective coating applied to at least a portion of the sheet. The first and second sheets  
6         are overlaid so that at least a portion of the protective coating on one of the sheets  
7         contacts the other sheet. A binding energy is then applied to a binding region on the first  
8         and second sheets to thereby bind the sheets into a sheet stack. The binding region  
9         includes at least a portion of the protective coating on at least one of the sheets, and  
10        which is in contact with the other sheet.

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